

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-H-17-15

Issued at: Yakutat, Thursday, July 9, 2015

Effective 12:01 a.m.
Date: Saturday, July 11, 2015

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday,
December 31, 2015. Unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order supersedes Emergency Order No. 1-KS-H-10-15 issued on Thursday, May 7, 2015. This emergency order closes the Situk River drainage to sport fishing for king salmon beginning 12:01 a.m., Saturday, July 11, through 11:59 p.m., Thursday, December 31. This closure prohibits all sport fishing for king salmon, including catch-and-release fishing. King salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska area. (b)(6)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 12:01a.m. Saturday, July 11, through December 31, 2015:

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska area.

(b)(6) In the Situk River drainage,

(A) King salmon: sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be possessed or retained and may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately;

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Brian Marston
Yakutat Area Management Biologist
Division of Sport Fish

JUSTIFICATION:

The Situk River drainage is managed for a biological escapement goal (BEG) of 450 to 1,050 large king salmon. In 2010, 2011, and 2012, the Situk River king salmon stock failed to achieve the BEG. In 2013 and 2014, the goal was achieved after restrictive management measures were implemented in the sport and commercial fisheries. The 2015 pre-season forecast estimated a total run of approximately 600 large king salmon. Given recent fishery and harvest trends, a run of that size was not expected to achieve the escapement goal without pre-season fishery restrictions. Since May 8, the sport fishery has been restricted to non-retention of king salmon over 20 inches. As of July 9, 2015 only 99 large king salmon have passed

the Situk River weir indicating that the escapement goal may not be achieved. Therefore it is warranted to close the river to sport fishing for king salmon.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-H-10-15 issued on Thursday May 7, 2015, which closed the Situk River drainage sport fishery to the retention of king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, is superseded.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 240020, Douglas, AK 99824, (907) 465-4270.